



Department of Labor



**For Immediate Release**  
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**GOVERNOR'S WORKPLACE SAFETY AWARDS OFFERED BY NEW  
PARTNERSHIP OF GOVERNMENT, LABOR AND BUSINESS**

**Indianapolis, IN** – The Indiana Department of Labor, on behalf of Gov. Joe Kernan, the Indiana AFL-CIO and the Indiana Chamber of Commerce have joined forces to offer the Governor's Workplace Safety Awards in 2004.

"This partnership between government, labor and business to honor the most innovative worker safety and health initiatives is focused in the right place – ensuring the health and safety of Hoosier workers," Kernan said.

The awards are highly competitive and serve to highlight creative approaches to reducing on-the-job injuries and illnesses and to draw attention to human and financial costs of worker fatalities, injuries and illnesses. In 2002, according to the National Safety Council, 4,900 Americans lost their lives in workplace incidents and another 3.7 million were disabled as a result of their work. The financial toll of these all-too-human results was a startling drag of 146.6 billion dollars or \$1,060 per worker on our economy.

Indiana AFL-CIO President Kenneth Zeller added, "Nothing is more important than ensuring workers are able to go home to their families safe and sound each night. By highlighting new efforts to ensure that happens, these awards contribute to our effort to make all Hoosier workers safe."

The awards are offered in four categories: innovations, partnerships, outreach and education, and technology transfer. Applicants must also show a strong commitment to workplace safety and health. Applications may be obtained by contacting the Indiana Department of Labor at (317) 232-2655, through each partner or by visiting the Indiana Department of Labor's website at [www.in.gov/labor/safetyapp.html](http://www.in.gov/labor/safetyapp.html). The deadline for submitting an application is March 15, 2004.

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“The Indiana Chamber of Commerce strongly believes that occupational safety is one of the most important factors to operating an efficient and profitable workplace,” commented Kevin Brinegar, president of the Indiana Chamber. “Through this awards program with the governor and the Department of Labor, we can, together with the AFL-CIO, further promote the far-reaching benefits of implementing an occupational safety program and making it a top priority.”

All Indiana businesses or individual industrial facilities, trade unions, municipalities, schools, service organizations, nonprofits and individuals may apply for the Governor’s Workplace Safety Awards. The awards will be presented during the Indiana Chamber’s Safety and Health Conference, scheduled for May 24 and 25, 2004.

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